

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 481

By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study rural road issues, including, but not limited to issues relative to funding county highway departments and the impact of the logging industry on local needs.

WHEREAS, the maintenance and construction of safe and efficient road systems at the local level is of vital importance to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, local road systems are likewise of vital importance to the economic health of this state and its many counties, municipalities, businesses, and industries; and

WHEREAS, certain industries including, but not limited to the logging, timber and pulp wood industries are extremely damaging to roads and highways used in the process of harvesting timber and pulpwood; and

WHEREAS, many counties in Tennessee do not receive sufficient revenues from existing sources to fund county highway departments at a desirable level; and

WHEREAS, existing laws and regulations regarding the imposition and enforcement of weight limits and other restrictions for the highway systems in this state do not provide sufficient solutions for the complex problems many counties face; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the particular issues affecting rural road systems in the State of Tennessee, including, but not limited to

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issues relative to funding of county highway departments and the impact of particular industries upon county highway systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One-Hundred and First General Assembly, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.